



# Phase II and Phase III Archeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CV426

Site Name: Sukeek's Cabin

Prehistoric ☐

Other name(s)

Historic ☒

Unknown ☐

Brief Description:

Late 19th to Early 20th century African-American cabin ruins

## Site Location and Environmental Data:

Latitude 38.3930 Longitude -76.5131

Elevation m Site slope 10-15%

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Maryland Archeological Research Unit No. 9

SCS soil & sediment code SrE

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site ☒

Underwater site ☐

Ethnobotany profile available ☐ Maritime site ☐

## Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of St. L

### Saltwater

Ocean ☐

Estuary/tidal river ☐

Tidewater/marsh ☒

Spring ☐

Minimum distance to water is 46 m

### Freshwater

Stream/river ☒

Swamp ☐

Lake or pond ☐

## Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site ☐

Woodland site ☐

Archaic site ☐

MD Adena ☐

Early archaic ☐

Early woodland ☐

Middle archaic ☐

Mid. woodland ☐

Late archaic ☐

Late woodland ☐

Unknown prehistoric context ☐

Contact period site ☐ ca. 1820 - 1860 ☐

ca. 1630 - 1675 ☐ ca. 1860 - 1900 ☐

ca. 1675 - 1720 ☐ ca. 1900 - 1930 ☐

ca. 1720 - 1780 ☐ Post 1930 ☐

ca. 1780 - 1820 ☐

Unknown historic context ☐

Unknown context ☐

## Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American ☐

Asian American ☐

African American ☒

Unknown ☐

Anglo-American ☐

Other ☐

Hispanic ☐

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

## Site Function Contextual Data:

### Prehistoric

Multi-component ☐

Misc. ceremonial ☐

Village ☐

Rock art ☐

Hamlet ☐

Shell midden ☐

Base camp ☐

STU/lithic scatter ☐

Rockshelter/cave ☐

Quarry/extraction ☐

Earthen mound ☐

Fish weir ☐

Cairn ☐

Production area ☐

Burial area ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

### Historic

Urban/Rural? Rural ☐

### Domestic

Homestead ☐

Farmstead ☒

Mansion ☐

Plantation ☐

Row/townhome ☐

Cellar ☐

Privy ☐

### Industrial

Mining-related ☐

Quarry-related ☐

Mill ☐

Black/metalsmith ☐

Furnace/forge ☐

Other ☐

### Transportation

Canal-related ☐

Road/railroad ☐

Wharf/landing ☐

Maritime-related ☐

Bridge ☐

Ford ☐

### Educational

### Commercial

Trading post ☐

Store ☐

Tavern/inn ☐

### Military

Battlefield ☐

Fortification ☐

Encampment ☐

### Townsite

### Religious

Church/mtg house ☐

Ch support bldg ☐

### Burial area

Cemetery ☐

Sepulchre ☐

Isolated burial ☐

Bldg or foundation ☒

Possible Structure ☐

Post-in-ground ☐

Frame-built ☒

Masonry ☐

Other structure ☐

### Slave related

Non-domestic agri ☐

### Recreational

Midden/dump ☒

Artifact scatter ☒

Spring or well ☐

Unknown ☐

Other context ☐

## Interpretive Sampling Data:

### Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken ☐

Flotation samples taken ☐

Other samples taken ☐

### Historic context samples

Soil samples taken ☐

Flotation samples taken ☒

Other samples taken ☐



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## Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types	
Clovis	<input type="text"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="text"/>
Palmer	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="text"/>
Le Croy	<input type="text"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="text"/>
Guilford	<input type="text"/>
Brewerton	<input type="text"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="text"/>
Koens-Crispin	<input type="text"/>
Perkiomen	<input type="text"/>
Susquehanna	<input type="text"/>
Vernon	<input type="text"/>
Piscataway	<input type="text"/>
Calvert	<input type="text"/>
Selby Bay	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="text"/>
Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="text"/>
Madison/Potomac	<input type="text"/>
Levanna	<input type="text"/>

### Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="text"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="text"/>	Shepard	<input type="text"/>	Keyser	<input type="text"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="text"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="text"/>	Townsend	<input type="text"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="text"/>
Selden Island	<input type="text"/>	Watson	<input type="text"/>	Minguannan	<input type="text"/>	Monongahela	<input type="text"/>
Accokeek	<input type="text"/>	Mockley	<input type="text"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="text"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="text"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="text"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="text"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="text"/>		
Vinette	<input type="text"/>	Page	<input type="text"/>	Moyaone	<input type="text"/>		
				Potomac Cr	<input type="text"/>		

### Historic Sherd Types

<b>Earthenware</b>		Ironstone	<input type="text"/> 12	Staffordshire	<input type="text"/>	<b>Stoneware</b>	
Astbury	<input type="text"/>	Jackfield	<input type="text"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="text"/>	English Brown	<input type="text"/>
Borderware	<input type="text"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="text"/>	Whiteware	<input type="text"/> 81	Eng Dry-bodie	<input type="text"/>
Buckley	<input type="text"/>	North Devon	<input type="text"/>	<b>Porcelain</b>	<input type="text"/> 29	Nottingham	<input type="text"/>
Creamware	<input type="text"/>	Pearlware	<input type="text"/> 1			Rhenish	<input type="text"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="text"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts	
Flaked stone	<input type="text"/> 3
Ground stone	<input type="text"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="text"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="text"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="text"/> 1
Ceramics (all)	<input type="text"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="text"/>
Other fired clay	<input type="text"/>
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Modified faunal	<input type="text"/>
Unmod faunal	<input type="text"/>
Oyster shell	<input type="text"/>
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Uncommon Obj.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

### Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="text"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="text"/>
Midden	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Shell midden	<input type="text"/>	Ossuary	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="text"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="text"/>		

### Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="text"/>
Jasper	<input type="text"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="text"/>
Chert	<input type="text"/>	Ironstone	<input type="text"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="text"/>	Argilite	<input type="text"/>
Quartz	<input type="text"/>	Steatite	<input type="text"/>
Quartzite	<input type="text"/>	Sandstone	<input type="text"/>
European flint	<input type="text"/>	Basalt	<input type="text"/>
Unknown	<input type="text"/>	Other	<input type="text"/>

☒ Dated features present at site

19th century dwelling

Historic Artifacts	
Pottery (all)	<input type="text"/> 332
Glass (all)	<input type="text"/> 1833
Architectural	<input type="text"/> 28172
Furniture	<input type="text"/> 8
Arms	<input type="text"/> 2
Clothing	<input type="text"/> 82
Personal items	<input type="text"/> 16
Tobacco related	<input type="text"/> 32
Activity item(s)	<input type="text"/> 247
Human remain(s)	<input type="text"/>
Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misc. kitchen	<input type="text"/> 5905
Floral material	<input type="text"/>
Misc.	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

### Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="text"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="text"/>	Unknown	<input type="text"/>
Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="text"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="text"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="text"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="text"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="text"/>	Earthworks	<input type="text"/>
Hearth/chimney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="text"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="text"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="text"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="text"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="text"/>
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="text"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

## Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 2:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 3:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 4:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 5:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 6:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability
Sample 7:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 8:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability	Sample 9:	<input type="text"/> +/- <input type="text"/> years BP	Reliability

☐ Additional radiocarbon results available



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Late 19th to Early 20th century African-American cabin ruins

Unknown ☐

## External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at MAC

☒ Additional raw data may be available online

## Summary Description:

The Sukeek's Cabin Site (18CV426) is a late 19th through early 20th-century African American domestic occupation located on a ridge above Mackall Cove in Calvert County, Maryland. The site is located on the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) property near St. Leonard. The site consists of a sandstone house foundation (constructed ca. 1870 and abandoned before 1920), and approximately half an acre around the foundation encompassing yards, trail heads, and work areas. Soils at the site are primarily Downer loamy sands and Dodon sandy loams.

According to eye-witness descriptions, the house was a two-story structure with one room on each floor, approximately 1.6 meters square (17 feet square). It had clapboard siding, a single entrance on the south facade, few windows, and a metal roof. The interior walls were covered in plaster over wood lath.

The Sukeek's Cabin Site was first noticed during a rapid survey of park property in 1983. However, no systematic investigation of the site was conducted at that time. In 1996, oral historical research began to suggest a connection between the structure and the descendants of a woman known only as "Sukeek", who was enslaved on the Peterson Plantation (the plantation that is now JPPM) during the 19th century. Oral history and archival work suggests that after emancipation, many of the former slaves of the Peterson family continued to live and work on the property as tenant farmers. George W. Peterson appears to have been the landowner of the property at the close of the Civil War, and at the time of the 1850 slave schedule, he owned 16 slaves including a 40 year-old woman (likely Sukeek). An 18 year-old woman is believed to be her daughter, Rebecca Coats, while a 20 year-old man is likely Rebecca's husband Jesse Coats. The 1860 slave schedule mentions the presence of three slave houses.

Becky Coats was the mother of Jane Dawkins Johnson. Jane Dawkins Johnson was the grandmother of Mrs. Octavia Gross Brown, who, along with her husband Daniel, worked on the property in the 1940s. Mrs. Brown, her husband, and her two sisters, were able to provide some family history information and suggested that the property at 18CV426 was 'home' to various members of the family over time and that it had originally been a slave cabin, inhabited by Sukeek. While the oral history corroborates archival evidence of Browns, Grosses, Dawkins, Johnsons, and ultimately Coats living in the area and working on the property, there is no documentary evidence related to Sukeek, other than the 1850 slave schedule reference to a female slave of roughly the right age. All that the Gross sisters knew of Sukeek, was that she was a slave and arrived in the area between 1800 and 1825. The Gross sisters did state that their mother and grandmother (Eliza Dawkins Gross and Jane Dawkins Johnson) lived in the house at 18CV426. A 1902 USGS map of the property depicts three dwellings, aside from the Peterson farmhouse. It is possible (although not proven) that the three structures may correspond to the three slave dwellings described in the 1860 slave schedule. The possibility would certainly corroborate the oral history that the dwelling dates back to the 19th century enslaved inhabitants of the Peterson plantation.

Informants also provided some details regarding their recollections of the structure and activities that took place nearby. A Mr. Tom Fowler, lived on the farm property from 1930 to 1940. He mentioned that, according to his father, a woman named Jane Johnson (i.e. Jane Dawkins Johnson) had lived on the hill where 18CV426 is located. Mr. Fowler, his father, and his brother Willis frequently worked near the property, slaughtering and processing hogs in an area just to the west of the foundation. Tom further stated that, although the structure was abandoned by the 1930s, it was still standing and was a two-story, 1 room over 1 room structure with clapboard siding and a plastered interior. His recollection was that the house had a wood floor, and a single door on the south side with wooden steps leading to the entrance. Mr. Fowler's father described Jane Dawkins Johnson as, the "workingest woman he ever knew."

In 1999, the site became the focus of intense archeological interest. Field operations began with clearing the site of vegetation and conducting a controlled surface collection. Twelve 3 meter squares were laid out and collected. Intensive investigation followed in May of 2000 as part of the JPPM Public Archaeology Program. Eight-week field sessions were conducted at the site in both 2000 and 2001.

Investigations entailed surface collection, shovel-testing, and the excavation of test units. A total of 52 1.5 meter test squares were surface collected to determine the approximate extent of the site. This was supplemented with 12 shovel test pits (STPs), measuring approximately 35 centimeters in diameter, excavated along the slopes south and west of the foundation ruins. The STPs were placed at 3 meter intervals and all soils were screened through hardware mesh.

In addition to the surface collection and STPs, during both field seasons test units were placed northwest, west, and south of the foundation, as well as within the foundation. A total of ten 1.5 meter test units were excavated. The site had not been disturbed by plowing, so the test units were all excavated by hand in 5 centimeter levels within natural layers. All soils were screened through hardware mesh, and all artifacts were retained. A 25-centimeter square from each stratum was excavated and waterscreened through fine mesh, to detect classes of cultural material that passed through the regular hardware cloth. All units within the cabin foundation or abutting it were divided into four quadrants to provide for enhanced control of provenience. One liter soil samples were retained from each excavated stratum, but these were eventually discarded due to lack of funds and personnel to adequately process them.

Three units were excavated within the foundation. A trench feature and a foundation stone that protruded into it, presumably to support a floor joist, were found in the northeast corner of the dwelling, and suggested that the dwelling was log, at least on the first story. Other units revealed that a barbed-wire and wire-mesh fence at the edge of the slope south of the house had defined the perimeter of the yard. A few artifacts were clustered along the fenceline, but the yard itself contained little cultural material. This, and the presence of complex erosional features in the yard, suggested that the area had been kept clean and vegetation-free through sweeping (a common practice among African Americans in the region). Two additional units were excavated on the relatively steep slope south of the fenceline, in an area where residents apparently dumped their trash. Visible artifacts were scattered over an area of the hillside that was at least 25 meters wide. Most of the artifacts from the site were recovered in these units. Three test units were excavated west of the dwelling. All bore evidence of slaughtered hog processing activities described by Mr. Fowler in interviews with project personnel. This included soil disturbed by the excavation of pits to hold steel boiling drums, and the remains of fires in which metal objects were heated to make the drum water boil. Artifacts recovered directly west of the foundation suggested that objects from the house were collected and burned, perhaps during demolition of the building.

Though no formal artifact inventory has been produced for the excavations at 18CV426, a total of 42,771 artifacts were reportedly recovered at the Sukeek's Cabin Site. The domestic artifacts, with the exception of a plastic thimble found in the trash midden, were comfortably dated between 1873 and 1920. Some, notably pipe fragments, were possibly earlier. Artifact tallies are available from the 1.5 X 1.5 m test unit excavations, but the remaining artifacts are not described in the draft site report and could only be identified as "unidentified" and are counted under the "miscellaneous" category in the table above. The artifact assemblage from Sukeek's Cabin consisted of 247 activity items, 28,172 architectural artifacts, 82 clothing items, 8 furniture objects, 7,568 kitchen-related objects, 16 personal items, 32 tobacco-related objects, 2 arms items, 6,640 miscellaneous historic or modern artifacts, and 4 prehistoric items. The



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Unknown ☐

activity items were 10 porcelain doll parts, a porcelain toy cup fragment, 16 iron alloy can fragments, 14 lamp glass fragments, 14 harmonica parts, a pocket light lid, an iron bolt, and iron rivet, 5 slate pencil fragments, 176 wire fencing fragments, and 8 pieces of barbed wire. Architectural items included 662 brick fragments, 5 pieces of cement/concrete, 704 pieces of mortar, 381 mortar/plaster fragments, 20,115 pieces of plaster, a piece of daub, 124 window glass fragments, 19 pieces of slate, 105 pieces of milled wood, 4,672 fragments of architectural stone, a tile fragment, 1,369 nails (2 wrought, 1,122 cut, 14 wire, and 131 unidentified), 3 cut spikes, 10 construction staples, and a brass hinge. The clothing items were 50 buttons (30 glass, 13 metal, 5 shell, 2 unidentified), a metal snap, 9 leather fragments, 10 shoe eyelets, a copper alloy eyelet, 4 hooks and eyes, 3 buckles, a garter, a safety pin clasp, a handle from an iron pair of scissors, and a plastic thimble. Furniture items were a brass tack, 2 castor parts, and 5 furniture hardware parts. Kitchen-related artifacts include 332 ceramic sherds (166 refined earthenware, 1 pearlware, 29 porcelain, 12 ironstone, 81 whiteware, 1 Rockingham, 21 miscellaneous stoneware, and 21 alphabet plate sherds), 1,331 glass fragments (66 table glass, 10 glass lid liners, and 1,255 bottle glass fragments), 13 zinc jar lid pieces, 1 utensil handle, and 5,891 faunal remains (147 unidentified animal bones, 67 burned bones, 8 fish bones, 4,716 oyster shell fragments, 840 clam shell fragments, 112 shell fragments, and 1 chicken beak). The 16 personal items were a copper alloy locket, an 1887 "Indian-head" penny, an 1888 penny, an 1895 penny, an 1898 "Indian-head" penny, a "Liberty-head" dime, a seed bead, 3 glass beads, a metal filigree pendant, 3 porcelain figurine fragments, a BSA pin, and a shark's tooth. Tobacco-related artifacts were 18 stoneware pipe fragments, 5 reed-stemmed hollowware pipes, 8 white clay pipe fragments, and a red clay pipe bowl fragment. The arms objects were 2 shotgun shells. The miscellaneous historic or modern items include 378 unidentified pieces of glass, 6 unidentified pieces of brass, 125 unidentified pieces of iron, 5 lead fragments, 17 unidentified pieces of metal, a piece of worked bone, a piece of plastic, 277 fragments of charcoal, and 5,830 unidentified items. The prehistoric assemblage consists of 1 flake, 2 worked quartz chunks, and smoothed sandstone fragment.

The study of the Sukeek's Cabin Site included oral history, archeology, and documentary research. Oral historical information was gathered from several sources, including descendants of Sukeek and people who worked on the surrounding farm in the 1930s. The descendant family traces their lineage to a woman known only as Sukeek, who was enslaved on the plantation that is now JPPM. 'Sukeek's Cabin' may be a misnomer, as it is not confirmed that Sukeek herself lived there, though the elder descendants believe she did. Documentary and oral historical evidence suggests that Jane Dawkins Johnson (Sukeek's granddaughter) and her kin occupied the site, probably up to a few years before Johnson's death in 1918. Sukeek could well have lived there before her granddaughter.

The Sukeek's Cabin Site (18CV426) represents Sukeek's descendants' first home as free people. After Emancipation, family members continued to work on the farm of their former owners, the Petersons. Analysis of the site helps to document one of the important social transformations in American history, the change from enslaved to free. The site is certainly significant, but due to the extent of excavations already carried out, its research potential has likely been exhausted.

## External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

97003032, SUKEEK-DRF, JPPM-NEH